WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for processing messages in a cellular base station system including a plurality of subsystems, comprising the steps of:

generating, in a source subsystem, a message header including an interface version field having a source current running software version value;

generating, in the source subsystem, a message by assembling the generated message header and at least one information field; and

transmitting the generated message from the source subsystem to a target subsystem.

2.   A method for processing messages in a cellular base station system including a plurality of subsystems, comprising the steps of:

adding at least one field to a message format exchanged between the plurality of subsystems in a software update process used by the plurality of subsystems;

receiving, in a target subsystem, a message containing at least a message header from a source subsystem;

comparing, in the target subsystem, a source current running version value contained in the received message header with a target current running version of the target subsystem;

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message including the added field, if the source current running version value is equivalent to the target current running version value; and

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message excluding the added field, if the source current running version value is not equivalent to the target current running version value.

3.   The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the target subsystem includes a transmission/reception buffer, a size of which is set to a value capable of accepting the received message including the added field.

5   4.   A method for processing messages in a cellular base station system including a plurality of subsystems, comprising the steps of:

adding at least one field to a message format exchanged between the plurality of subsystems in a software update process used by the plurality of subsystems;

generating, in a source subsystem, a message header including an interface

10   version field having a source current running version value;

generating, in the source subsystem, a message by assembling the generated message header and at least one information field;

transmitting the generated message from the source subsystem to a target subsystem;

15   comparing, in the target subsystem, the source current running version value in the received message header with a target current running version value of the target subsystem;

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message including the added field, if the source current running version value is equivalent to the target current

20   running version value; and

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message excluding the added field, if the source current running version value is not equivalent to the target current running version value.

25   5.   A method for processing messages in a cellular base station subsystem including a plurality of subsystems, comprising the steps of:

adding at least one field to a message format exchanged between the plurality of

subsystems in an update process of software used by the plurality of subsystems;

installing, in a base station manager for controlling the base station system, an updated version of the software and then backing-up a previous version of the software; and

downloading a selected one of the updated version and the previous version of the software from the base station manager and installing the downloaded software, when at least one of the plurality of subsystems restarts.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting, in a source subsystem, a message having a message header including an interface version field having a source current running version value to a target subsystem;

detecting, in the target subsystem, the source current running version value from the received message header;

processing in the target subsystem, the received message using the updated version of the software, if the source current running version value is equivalent to a target current running version value of the target subsystem; and

processing, in the target subsystem, the received message using the previous version of the software, if the source current running version value is not equivalent to the target current running version value of the target subsystem.